

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1820

A RESOLUTION proclaiming and celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

WHEREAS, Bethel College was founded on May 11, 1887, by members of the Newton community and the Kansas Conference of Mennonites with the goal of educating good citizens and passing on the Christian faith, named "Bethel" for the Hebrew Bible term meaning "house of God"; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College was incorporated by the State of Kansas on May 23, 1887, when the charter signed by its 33 founders was submitted to the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College was the first institution of higher learning to be established under the auspices of the Mennonite denomination in North America; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College honors with gratitude the vision of its three founding fathers, prominent leaders in the City of Newton and Harvey County; David Goerz, John J. Krehbiel and Bernhard Warkentin; and of its first president, Cornelius H. Wedel; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College has, through its history, educated and graduated citizens of and leaders for Newton, North Newton, Harvey County, the State of Kansas, the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College is the only Kansas private college to be listed by Forbes.com in "America's Best Colleges 2011-12," is the highest-ranking Kansas institution in the Washington Monthly college guide for 2011-12, and consistently appears in the top tier of U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College is first in the state and in the top 100 nationally in percentage of bachelor's degree graduates who go on to earn Ph.D. degrees; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College is one of only a handful of colleges or universities nationwide to offer its students a four-year graduation guarantee; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College is today a thriving liberal arts institution known for academic excellence, character and service: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we do hereby proclaim the year 2012 as Bethel College's quasiquintennial year. We celebrate its rich legacy, consistent progress and wide-ranging achievements and applaud its continued growth. We recognize Bethel College as the first Mennonite college in North America and as a distinguished institution of higher learning dedicated to the liberal arts; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of Bethel College and to the Chairman of the board of directors of Bethel College.

Senate Resolution No. 1820 was sponsored by Senator Carolyn McGinn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*